

REMARKS

Receipt of the office action is acknowledged. Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8-12, and 18-22 have been rejected as being obvious over Calandra in view of Roopnarine. Claims 6, 7, 16 and 17 have been rejected as being obvious over Calandra in view of Roopnarine, and further in view of the Sommer publication. Claims 2-5, and 13-15 have been rejected as being obvious over Calandra in view of Roopnarine, and further in view of either Ekshut, Miyagawa, Shinjo, or Fuller. Claims 8 and 20 are canceled without prejudice, and new claims 23 and 24 are added hereby. In keeping with the foregoing amendments and the following argument, reconsideration and allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

In response to the rejection of claim 1, the claim 1 has been amended to positively recite, in part, a recess countersunk in the first end of the barrel, with an internal portion of the recess including a plurality of faces arranged to non-rotationally receive a driving nut.

Only the embodiment of Figure 2 of the Calandra reference discloses any sort of recess at all into which a portion of the drive head 64 is inserted. The drive head 64 is “welded” to or “directly attached to” the end of the cable by, for example, adhesives, swaging, or welding. See generally column 3, lines 32-60, as well as independent claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Plainly, the reference expressly teaches, in the specification as well as in each and every independent claim, that the drive nut is secured to the cable. Further, Calandra uses a conventional tapered bore with conventional wedges. See Column 3, lines 16-19. Nowhere, either in the specification or in the claims, does the Calandra reference teach or even suggest that the driving nut engages the recess or even the barrel in a non-rotational fashion. The wedges of Roopnarine are curved to match the inside shape of the conical bore, and thus cannot possibly form a non-rotational engagement with the barrel. Accordingly, there simply cannot be a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as the cited combination wholly

lacks a claim limitation. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome, and claim 1 is in allowable form.

Moreover, as the Calandra reference expressly teaches that the driving nut is supposed to be welded or directly attached to the cable, rather than to the barrel and wedge assembly, there simply is no suggestion to be found in either reference that would suggest the missing limitation, unless one were to reconstruct the invention using the applicants' own disclosure as a template. For this reason as well, there can be no *prima facie* case of obviousness. Accordingly, claim 1 is in allowable form.

Claims 2-11 and 23 depend from claim 1, either directly or via intervening claims, and accordingly these claims are also in allowable form.

In response to the rejection of claim 12, claim 12 has been amended to positively recite, in part, a driving nut sized for insertion in the recess and arranged to transfer rotation of the driving nut directly to the barrel, the driving nut adapted for engagement by a driving tool. Claim 21 has been amended to positively recited, in part, that the recess and the driving nut are arranged such that rotation of the driving nut is transferred through the recess directly to the barrel.

Once again, only the embodiment of Figure 2 of the Calandra reference discloses any sort of recess at all into which a portion of the drive head 64 is inserted. However, as shown by a clear gap between that portion of the drive head 64 that is disposed inside the barrel, the drive head 64 simply cannot engage the barrel non-rotationally. Nowhere, either in the specification or in the claims, does either reference teach or even suggest that the driving nut engages the barrel directly and in a non-rotational fashion. Calandra teaches attachment between the head and the cable, with conventional wedges in the bore. The wedges of Roopnarine are curved to match the inside shape of the conical bore, and thus cannot possibly form a non-rotational engagement with the barrel. Accordingly, there simply cannot be a

prima facie case of obviousness, as the cited combination wholly lacks a claim limitation.

Accordingly, the rejections of claims 12 and 21 are overcome.

With further respect to claims 12 and 21, even if one were to modify the references so as to make the wedges 92 non-rotational with respect to the barrel, the reference would still have to transfer rotation between the nut to the cable, from the cable to the inner surface of the wedges, and from the outer surface of the wedges to the barrel. Not only would this not be “direct” as claimed, but reliance on such an arrangement would result in a non-functional device, as the shape and surfaces of the wedges are not intended to resist rotation, and simply would not suffice to resist such rotation. Instead, such wedges are intended to resist longitudinal movement of the cable relative to the barrel, hence the inclusion of the sloping bore. Once again, the Roopnarine reference adds nothing, and merely discloses a plurality of wedges that, like the primary reference, would not provide rotational resistance relative to the surrounding structure.

Once again, there can be no *prima facie* case of obviousness, as the limitation is wholly lacking from the cited combination. Accordingly, claim 12 and 21 are in allowable form. The claims dependent on claim 12, including new claim 24, are also in allowable form.

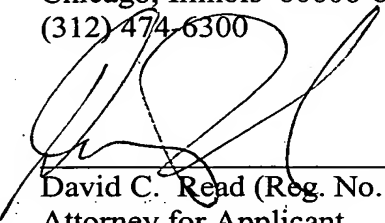
Amended claim 22 recites, in part, that the recess includes a plurality of faces engaged by a the driving nut. Both references plainly include a conical bore, and the continuous surface of the conical bore cannot possibly be considered to have a plurality of faces.

Accordingly, claimed 22 is an allowable form.

In view of the foregoing the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. In the event there is any remaining issue that the Examiner believes can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 474-6612.

Respectfully submitted,

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